

DIA Review Completed.

**SECRET**OLL/LD  
INCOMING

JCS review completed. Secondary referral to DIA.

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MILITARY

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84-0899  
25X2

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MSR

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TOR: 270952Z FEB 84

RR RUEAIIA  
DE RUEKJCS #6190 0580951  
ZNY SSSSS  
R 270951Z FEB 84  
FM JCS WASHINGTON DC  
INFO RUEADWD/OCSA WASHINGTON DC  
RUENAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC  
RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC  
RUEHC /SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC  
RUEAMCC/CMC CC WASHINGTON DC  
RUETIAH/DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MD  
RUEACMC/CMC WASHINGTON DC  
RULWAAA/HQ SAC DCS INTELL OFFUTT AFB NE//INOO//  
RUEALGX/SAFE  
R 270949Z FEB 84  
FM USDAO CAIRO EG  
TO AIG NINE THREE NINE  
BT  
S E C R E T CAIRO EG 06190

NOFORN WNINTEL

SERIAL: (U) IIR 6 899 0123 84  
COUNTRY: (U) EGYPT (EG), SUDAN (SU), SOMALIA (SO)  
SUBJ: IIR 6 899 0123 84/OBSERVATIONS AT RAS BANAS AIR  
BASE (U)  
WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFO REPORT, NOT FINALLY  
EVALUATED INTEL.  
DOI: (U) 840222  
REQS: (U) K-3CX-00037, REV 2, U-UDX-42936, Y-DIRM9-003,  
Z-DI3-EG030.  
SOURCE: (U) MEMBER USDAO CAIRO

SUMMARY: (S/NOFORN) RO VISITED RAS BANAS AIR BASE  
TOURED AN ADJACENT PIER AND SOME IN-  
ACTIVE SOVIET-BUILT SUPPORT FACILITIES, AND DISCUSSED  
CONDITIONS AT THE BASE WITH MEMBERS OF THE EGYPTIAN  
MILITARY CARETAKER FORCE.

TEXT: 1. (S/NOFORN/WNINTEL) RO FLEW VISITING HOUSE  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE (HAC) STAFF MEMBERS TO RAS BANAS  
AIR BASE, AND JOINED THEM DURING A FAST-PACED TOUR OF  
FACILITIES.  
2. (S/NOFORN) EGYPTIAN-OPERATED TOWER WAS UP--LOUD AND  
CLEAR AT A DISTANCE OF 50 NM ON VHF 125.0. RAMP AND RUN-  
WAY WERE FREE OF DEBRIS--PROBABLY SWEEPED CLEAN BY 30-KNOT  
WIND FROM 360 DEGREES, WHICH EGYPTIAN SAID IS ALMOST  
CONSTANT IN WINTER MONTHS.  
3. (S/NOFORN) TWO OLD AND WORK-SCARRED SHIPS WERE TIED  
SIDE-BY-SIDE ALONG THE PIER (25-FOOT DEPTH) ADJACENT TO  
THE BASE. EGYPTIAN ESCORT SAID THAT THE INSIDE SHIP IS  
DOCKED PERMANENTLY TO STORE ASPHALT SHUTTLED IN BY THE

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OTHER. PURPOSE OF THE ASPHALT IS A HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT WHICH WILL ULTIMATELY EXTEND TO PORT SUDAN. HE DID NOT KNOW PRESENT PROGRESS OF THE ROADWAY SOUTH OR PLANNED COMPLETION DATE, BUT SAID THE EFFORT IS QUITE ACTIVE.

INCLUDED AN ABANDONED HOSPITAL, BARRACKS AND GENERATOR ROOM. ALL HAD BEEN CONSTRUCTED IN THREE-FOURTHS SUB-MERGED STYLE, COVERED BY FLAT ROOF OVER A HEAD-HIGH WALL ABOVE GROUND WHICH LETS IN LIGHT AND FRESH AIR. STRUCTURES WERE SIMPLE AND SOLID, WITH PROVISION FOR ELECTRICITY AND FAUCET WATER. MUD FROM A MAJOR 1979 FLOOD HAD BEEN SHOVELED OUT, BUT NOT SCRAPED OFF WALLS. DEPTH OF DUST AND CONCERN ABOUT SNAKES INDICATED VERY INFREQUENT ATTENTION TO THESE BUILDINGS SINCE SOVIET DEPARTURE. RO IS SURPRISED THE EGYPTIANS HAVE NOT USED THEM, AS THEY SEEM IN FAR BETTER SHAPE THAN THE GARRISON'S DOGPATCH-LOOKING QUARTERS.

5. (S/NOFORN) POTABLE WATER FOR THE EGYPTIAN FORCES CONTINUES TO BE BROUGHT IN BY BARGE FROM SAFAGA (26-38N; 33-59E), AND IS USED FOR DRINKING AND COOKING BUT NOT BATHING. SUPPLY IS REGULAR--COMES TO A PIER APPROXIMATELY ONE (1) NM SOUTH OF THE BASE AND IS PIPED TO STORAGE TANKS.

6. (S/NOFORN) EGYPTIANS ESTIMATED SIZE OF THEIR CARE-TAKER FORCE TO BE 200-300 MEN--A MIX OF ARMY, AIR FORCE AND A VERY SMALL NUMBER OF NAVY PERSONNEL. RO COULD NOT PIN DOWN TOUR LENGTH, WHICH MAY VARY BY SERVICE AND RANK--ABOUT ONE YEAR. A C-130 SHUTTLE COMES IN--USUALLY TWICE A WEEK--WITH MAIL AND SUPPLIES, AND IS USED TO ROTATE TROOPS FOR SYSTEMATIC TIME OFF IN ASWAN, CAIRO OR HOMES BEYOND. ALL SAID THEY AVERAGE 10-15 DAYS A MONTH AWAY FROM THE BASE. MORALE SEEMED REASONABLY GOOD, THOUGH HARD TO READ IN A SHORT ENCOUNTER. TOWER AND REFUELING SUPPORT WERE EFFICIENT.

7. (S/NOFORN) HAC STAFFERS WERE UP-BEAT, AND ASKED FEW BUT INTELLIGENT QUESTIONS. THEY HAD RECENTLY BEEN TO BERBERA (10-00N; 45-00E) IN SOMALIA, AND PROCLAIMED IT A GARDEN SPOT COMPARED TO RAS BANAS.

COMMENTS: (U) NONE

PROJ: (U) N/A

COLL: (U) AA

INSTR: (U) US NO

PREP: (U) DENNIS W. STILES, COL, USAF, AIRA

APPR: (U) JOHN R. UNDERWOOD, COL, USA, DATT/AIRA

EVAL: (U) NO; REL TO: NONE

ENCL: (U) N/A

DISSEM: (U) N/A

WARNING: (U) NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS - INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED.

DECL: OADR

END OF MESSAGE

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